



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

Public Meetings



Pool 18 Drawdown and Channel Maintenance Pool Plan

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Illinois and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources invite you to attend a public meeting about Pool 18 of the Upper Mississippi River. The purpose of the public meeting is for the public to comment on the draft plans for seasonal water level drawdowns and for long term channel maintenance pool planning. These meetings are a part of the National Environmental Policy Act scoping process associated with the Corps' continuing environmental compliance responsibilities for these projects.

The Corps of Engineers is currently initiating planning for future implementation of navigation efficiency and ecosystem restoration projects as a result of the plan recommended in the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study. One of these initial projects involves a recurring, seasonal water level reduction (or drawdown) of Pool 18. The current concept is to conduct a two-foot drawdown, below the current operating level, for a minimum of 60 days during the mid- to late summer to promote the growth of vegetation in Pool 18 that provides a valuable source of habitat and food for fish, migratory birds, and furbearers. The navigation channel would be maintained during the drawdown through the use of advanced maintenance dredging. The Corps currently does not have authority to implement this project; however, Congress has appropriated funding this year to begin the planning process for future authorization. The first opportunity to conduct the proposed drawdown would be in 2007 or 2008, depending upon when authorization by Congress occurs. As part of our planning efforts, we are soliciting input from stakeholders regarding potential impacts on other users of the river, including recreation, commercial navigation, and competing environmental concerns.

The Corps of Engineers is also developing channel maintenance pool plans for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. The principal goals for these pool plans are to describe a strategy for long-term, pool-wide dredge material placement site planning, to discuss alternative channel maintenance techniques, and to document policies and procedures. The product of this program will be a summary of all navigation channel maintenance activities for the next forty years for each pool in the river systems. As part of this planning effort, we are also soliciting input

regarding ways to better manage dredging and/or placement needs, and on regulating structures and environmental restoration activities that affect or are affected by, the dredging program.

All interested persons are invited to attend one or both meetings. During each consecutive public meeting, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Natural Resources personnel will be available to speak to the public one-on-one. Doors will open at 2:00 pm with a formal presentation at 2:30 followed by question and answer session to follow until 4:00 pm. There will be a break from 4:00-6:00 pm. The doors will reopen at 6:00 pm with a formal presentation at 6:30 with a question and answer session to follow until 8:00 pm. Locations are listed below.

Date: August 30, 2005

Time: 2:00 pm-4:00 pm and 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Place: Memorial Auditorium Place
200 N Front St – Banquet Room B
Burlington, IA 52601

Date: August 31, 2005

Time: 2:00 pm-4:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Place: Keithsburg City Hall – Gymnasium
302 S 14th St
Keithsburg, IL 61442

This invitation has been sent to involved Federal and state agencies, city and business representatives, and many members of the public in the Burlington and Keithsburg areas. *If you are aware of someone who may not have seen this notice, please encourage him or her to participate in the public meetings.* If you have technical questions about the draft plans, please call Mr. Kevin Landwehr at 309/794-5578 for pool drawdown and Mr. Steve Johnson at 309/794-5704 for channel maintenance pool planning.

You may also visit our website at

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/DMMP/Pool18.asp>

Any comments can be mailed to

US Army Engineer District, Rock Island
ATTN: Planning Division (PM-A)
Clock Tower Building
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE
PUBLIC MEETINGS.**